

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic device for use in a medical monitoring system, wherein the medical monitoring system ~~that~~ generates notification messages indicating that a patient being monitored may have a condition that requires attention and wirelessly transfers the notification messages to the portable electronic device, the portable electronic device comprising: a processing circuit configured to receive the notification messages indicating that the patient being monitored may have a condition that requires attention; and an identification device coupled to the processing circuit and configured to input data representative of an identity of a subject of interest from an information source at a distance from the identification device.
2. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the identification device comprises a barcode scanner.
3. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the identification device comprises a radio frequency identification circuit.
4. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the identification device is configured to input data representative of an identity of the user.
5. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 4, wherein the processing circuit is configured to adjust functions of the portable electronic device based on the identity of the user determined by the identification device.

6. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 5, wherein the function is a display of data and the processing circuit is configured to customize a form in which data is displayed based on the identity of the user.
7. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 4, wherein the information representative of the identity of the user input by the identification device is used to control which notification messages are received by the portable electronic device.
8. (Currently Amended) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein information received from the ~~subject~~-identification device may be used to control which notification messages are received by the portable electronic device, adjust functions of the portable electronic device, prompt display of data associated with the subject of interest, and facilitate distribution of medicine.
9. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising: an audio signal input device; an audio signal output device; and a wireless transceiver, wherein the processing circuit is further configured to facilitate transfer of voice data to the audio signal output and from the audio signal input by way of the wireless transceiver.
10. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 9, wherein the processing circuit is further configured to implement organizer programs.
11. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 9, wherein the wireless transceiver uses a cellular data transfer protocol.
12. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the processing circuit is further configured to implement an organizer function.

13. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 12, wherein the organizer function includes at least one of a calendar function and a task list function.

14. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 12, wherein the organizer function includes a calendar function and a task list function.

15. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the notification message includes physiologic data acquired from the patient.

16. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 15, wherein the physiologic data includes electrocardiogram waveform data.

17. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising a housing containing the processing circuit and the identification device, the housing configured to be rugged.

18. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 17, wherein the housing has a volume that is no more than about 35 cubic inches.

19. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising a housing configured to be free of bacterial growth.

Claims 20 – 74 (Cancelled)